

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT The Steel Industry

DATE DISTR. 2 APR 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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1. Hüttenwerk-Kombinat Ost, Eisenberg

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- a. The foundations for blast furnaces Nos. 1 - 3 were scheduled to be completed by 20 December 1950; the formal laying of the foundation stone of the plant by Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Heavy Industry, DDR is planned for 1 January 1951. Blast furnace No. 1 is to be built by the Industriebau (sic), Berlin. Road construction work and the erection of a bridge across the Spree Canal are now being carried out under high pressure.
- b. A conference of blast furnace technical experts was held at VEB Walzwerk Willy Becker Kirchmöser on 25 November 1950 to discuss the details of the current blast furnace projects. It was decided that a complete overhaul, amounting to the drafting of entirely new plans for the blast furnaces, would be required. It is believed the plans will be completed in late January 1951.
- c. It is now expected that the ore for this plant will be supplied by the USSR from the Krivoy Rog area. Detailed final plans of the blast furnaces should confirm this.

2. Hüttenwerk-Kombinat West, Calbe

Final plans for this project will depend on the success or failure of the second (50 ton) "Niederschachtofen" now under construction at VEB Maxhütte, Unterwellenborn.

3. VEB Maxhütte Unterwellenborn

- a. Work on the second (50 ton) trial "Niederschachtofen", and especially on the air preheaters, is being expedited. So far the casing and the grating have been completed. The pipe line construction work, which has been sub-contracted, is also now under way.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

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b. The slab bloom push heating furnace for the broad strip rolling mill has proved a success when fed with "generator" gas. The blast furnace gas formerly supplied to this furnace only produced a maximum ingot temperature of 1,150 degrees centigrade. It is now planned to fit a recuperator to the blast furnace preheating plant to increase temperature by 250 to 450 degrees centigrade. Only material obtainable in [] will fulfill this requirement, but final authority for the placing of such an order is still under discussion with the Ministry for Heavy Industry.

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4. Hoffmann & Notz, Eberswalde

One new push heating furnace, required for the production of high grade steels, is now under construction.

5. VSB Stahl-und Walzwerk Hennigsdorf

a. The new drying oven at the Veltion foundry section of the plant has been completed.

b. Buildings for a new annealing plant are now well under way.

6. Sächsische Gusstahl-Werke Döhlen

In spite of earlier objections, it has now been decided to erect a new high grade steel works at this plant.

7. Reichsbahn Repair Shops, Dresden

The push heating furnace for ingots and the 450 mm roughing mill will be placed into operation on completion in late December 1950.

8. Stahl-und Walzwerke Brandenburg

a. The fifth SM furnace commenced operating on 20 December 1950.

b. The sixth SM furnace is expected to begin operation in January 1951; it is believed that the remaining four SM furnaces proposed for this plant will be completed by mid-summer 1951.

9. VED Eisen-und Hüttenwerk, Thale (formerly SAG Marten)

a. New deposits of moulding sand have been discovered by this plant.

b. The production of forged steel for the manufacture of tools has now been started and so far proved satisfactory.

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